

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 07129

EXDIS

DEPT. FOR KATZ, MAYNES, MOOSE

LIBREVILLE FOR BERGSTEN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, AF, MX
SUBJECT: COMMON FUND, AFRICAN TRANSPORTATION

1. UNDERSECRETARY COOPER SPOKE WITH CAMEROON MINISTER OF FINANCE YONDO ON QUESTION OF COMMON FUND, FOLLOWING POSITION USED IN GENEVA MEETINGS IN MARCH. COOPER EMPHASIZED THE DESIRABILITY FOR G-77 TO FOCUS ON GROUP B PROPOSAL FOR FIRST WINDOW OF COMMON FUND. GROUP B PROPOSAL IS NOT PUT FORWARD ON A TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT BASIS. DETAILS ARE NEGOTIABLE AROUND THE CENTRAL IDEA. USG ALSO ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO "OTHER MEASURES" BUT WOULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET FUNDS FOR OTHER MEASURES THROUGH SECOND WINDOW OF COMMON FUND. THEREFORE ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE AND BE FLEXIBLE ON INSTRUMENTALITIES. DRAWING ON EXAMPLE OF INTERNATIONAL WOOL SECRETARIAT, COOPER SUGGESTED PRODUCER-CONSUMER GROUPS COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR COMMODITIES NOT SUITABLE FOR BUFFER STOCK ICAS IN
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ORDER TO WORK ON OTHER MEASURES. THIS WOULD ELIMINATE NEED FOR SECOND WINDOW IN COMMON FUND, ALTHOUGH COMMON FUND MIGHT RETAIN SOME LOOSE COORDINATING ROLE.

2. YONDO RESPONDED THAT HE APPRECIATED MOVEMENT IN U.S. POSITION ON COMMON FUND DURING THE LAST YEAR AND THE CONSTRUCTIVE POSITION U.S. WAS NOW TAKING. HE DESCRIBED

THE POSITION SKETCHED ABOVE AS "A USEFUL COMPROMISE" FOR DEALING WITH COMMODITIES AND COMMON FUND. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE COULD SPEAK ONLY FOR HIMSELF AND THAT HE OF COURSE WAS RESPONDING INFORMALLY. FORMAL RESPONSE COULD NOT BE GIVEN UNTIL PROPOSAL WAS AVAILABLE IN WRITING. YONDO TRAVELLING TO LIBREVILLE FOR AFDB MEETING SATURDAY. AT COOPER'S REQUEST HE WILL TAKE THIS ISSUE UP IN CORRIDOR TALK WITH FINANCE MINISTER FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE AGREED TO RELAY THEIR REACTION TO HIS CONVERSATIONS THROUGH U.S. EMBASSY IN YAOUNDE.

3. ASKED IF HE HAD ISSUES HE WOULD LIKE TO RAISE, YONDO MENTIONED THE QUESTION OF AFRICAN TRANSPORTATION. THIS IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND HE WONDERED WHERE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES STOOD ON THIS QUESTION, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF 32ND ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION. COOPER INFORMED YONDO OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF A MEETING IN NEAR FUTURE OF EXPERTS FROM U.S., FRANCE, FRG, AND UK TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF COLLECTIVE ACTION BY DONORS IN AFRICA, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND PUBLIC HEALTH. COOPER REPORTED THAT U.S. AID DIRECTIONS PROHIBIT U.S. AID FOR MAINLINE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS. HOWEVER, WE COULD COLLABORATE WITH OTHER DONORS IN PROVIDING ACCESS SYSTEMS IN CONTEXT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO SUCH DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA.

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4. COMMENT: YONDO SEEMED PLEASED WITH DISCUSSION AND GENUINELY WILLING TO WORK TOWARD MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE ON COMMON FUND. HE ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFICULTIES THROUGHOUT AFRICA, INCLUDING WITHIN HIS OWN GOVERNMENT, IN GETTING DIVERSE MINISTRIES TOGETHER ON THIS ISSUE BUT INDICATED HE WOULD MAKE THE EFFORT. LUCEY

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